AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) **An isolated** ~~**A bioinformatically detectable novel**~~ viral **DNA encoding** ~~**gene encoding substantially pure nucleic acid wherein**~~:

   RNA ~~**encoded by said bioinformatically detectable novel viral gene is about 18 to about 24 nucleotides in length, and originates from an RNA precursor, which RNA precursor is**~~ **comprising** about 50 to about 120 nucleotides~~**, in length;**~~

   ~~**a nucleotide sequence of a first half of said**~~ **wherein about 18 to about 24 nucleotides at the 5' of the** RNA **are** ~~**precursor is**~~ a partial inversed-reversed sequence of a ~~**nucleotide**~~ sequence **at the 3' of the RNA, and wherein** ~~**of a second half thereof;**~~

   a **portion of the** ~~**nucleotide sequence of said**~~ RNA ~~**encoded by said novel viral gene**~~ is a partial inversed-reversed sequence of a ~~**nucleotide sequence**~~ **portion** of a binding site associated with at least one host target gene~~**; and**~~

   ~~**a function of said novel viral gene is bioinformatically deducible**~~.

2. Cancelled

3. (Currently Amended) ~~**A bioinformatically detectable novel viral gene encoding substantially pure DNA wherein:**~~

   ~~**RNA encoded by said bioinformatically detectable novel gene is about 18 to about 24 nucleotides in length, and originates from an RNA precursor, which RNA precursor is about 50 to about 120 nucleotides in length;**~~

   ~~**a nucleotide sequence of a first half of said RNA precursor is a partial inversed-reversed sequence of a nucleotide sequence of a second half thereof;**~~

   ~~**a nucleotide sequence of said RNA encoded by said novel gene is a partial inversed-reversed sequence of a nucleotide sequence of a binding site associated with at least one host target gene; and**~~

The DNA of claim 1 wherein the RNA is capable of ~~a function of said novel gene is modulation of~~ modulating expression of **the ~~said at least one~~** target gene.

4. Cancelled
5. Cancelled
6. (Currently Amended) **The DNA of claim 1 wherein the ~~A bioinformatically detectable novel gene according to claim 1 and wherein: said binding site associated with at least one target gene is located in an~~** untranslated region of **an mRNA ~~RNA~~** encoded by **the ~~said at least one~~** target gene **comprises the binding site**.
7. Cancelled
8. (Currently Amended) A vector **capable of expressing ~~comprising~~** the DNA of claim 1.
9. (Currently Amended) A method of **~~selectively~~** inhibiting translation of **a host target ~~at least one~~** gene [[,]] comprising introducing the vector of claim 8 into **the host~~a cell~~**.
10. Cancelled
11. Cancelled
12. (Currently Amended) A probe comprising **a sequence complementary to a portion of the RNA encoded by** the DNA of claim 1.
13. (Currently Amended) A method of **~~selectively~~** detecting expression of **a viral miRNA ~~at least one gene~~**, comprising **detecting hybridization by a probe of claim 12, wherein the probe comprises a sequence complementary to a portion of the miRNA~~using the probe of claim 12(14)~~**.
14. Cancelled
15. Cancelled
16. Cancelled
17. Cancelled
18. (Currently Amended) A method for **treating infection by a virus in a host ~~anti-viral treatment~~** comprising **~~neutralizing said RNA of claim 1~~**

introducing to a host in need thereof a RNA comprising a sequence characterized by the following:

(a) **the sequence is complementary to a portion of the miRNA expressed by the virus;**

(b) **the sequence is complementary to a portion of a binding site of a miRNA expressed by the virus;**

(c) **the sequence is complementary to a portion of a host miRNA characterized by increased expression with infection by the virus; or**

(d) **the sequence is complementary to a portion of a binding site in a host miRNA encoding a protein characterized by increased expression with infection by the virus**.

19. Cancelled

20. Cancelled